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**In the Patent and Trademark Office**

Inventor: Degabli

Application Serial No. 09/270,151

Filing Date: March 16, 1999

Art Unit and Examiner: 3724/Examiner Marina Rachuba

Invention: Combination Utility Knife

Paper No. 12

***Response to Office Action***

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Examiner Rachuba:

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action (Paper no. 11), mailed on March 13, 2001. This Response is being filed by fax on June 13, 2001, transmitted to Art Unit 3724, facsimile number (703) 305-3579.

Kindly amend the above-referenced application as follows:

**In the Claims**

Please cancel remaining claims 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein, and add new claims 14 and 15 below. New claims 14 and 15 are rewritten versions of previous independent claims 7 and 11 respectively, and Applicant has attached as Attachment 1 a compare-rite version of the rewritten claims for the Examiner's convenience, in accordance with PBG Rule 1.121.

**Rewritten and Amended Claims:**

14. A utility knife comprising:

a two-part housing wherein the two parts are first and second juxtaposed halves, the housing having a top and a bottom, with each half having a blade end and a back end, which blade end and back end form a front and a back of the housing, respectively, wherein the longitudinal axis of the housing extends from the front to the back;

a blade removably engaged within the housing and extending outward from the front, the blade having a cutting edge extending outward along the bottom of the housing;